



## 2004 Survey of Army Families V Frequently Asked Questions

***Q: Why should I fill out the Survey? What does it do for me and my family?***

A: Your responses to the Survey questions, and the responses of other Army spouses like you, are directly acted upon by senior Army leaders in order to improve the quality of life of your family as well as for generations of Army families to come. The demographics of Army families change continually, and move in tandem with changes in the overall demographics of the United States. Army leaders only know how to match up support programs that reflect these changes with the aggregate input from all types of Army families stationed all over the world. The Army knows that as an Army spouse, you experience a constant pace of change and experience stresses that are unique to military life. Army leaders want to learn from you so they will be able to determine the best way to respond to your expectations.

***Q: How did input from other Army spouses to earlier versions of the Survey of Army Families improve my life and my family's?***

A: The Army values the Survey of Army Families as a key source of information from spouses that directly reaches the senior Army leadership. Survey results are critical for the Army to advocate to Congress for the facilities and programs that you -- and thousands of spouses like you -- indicate are the most important for your community. Many aspects of life as an Army family today are thanks to the input that thousands of spouses made to previous Surveys. For example, Congress approved an aggressive program that is privatizing and dramatically raising the standards for military housing. And, outcomes from an employment summit conducted in 2002 with Fortune 500 companies work to increase corporate job opportunities for Army spouses while helping spouses build skills attractive to employers.

***Q: How are the questions for the Survey selected?***

A: Survey questions cover a wide variety of programs and services targeted to help the Army understand how you and your family are impacted by Army support. Survey questions are geared to uncover new issues and concerns that you and your family have

regarding life in the Army. The Army wants to know how it is doing in meeting Army families' needs over time. And, the Army wants to make sure that it supports you with the programs and services that you need and want, and that improve your lives as Army family members.

***Q: What is the history of the Survey of Army Families?***

A: The Survey of Army Families began in 1987 as a direct response to spousal concerns that the Army was unresponsive to their challenges as wives/husbands of active duty soldiers, as well as to the challenges that other family members experience. Since then, the Survey has been conducted every four years. It is a comprehensive collection of information, with questions that change as the face of Army life changes. Each time a new Survey is constructed, it reflects what the Army has learned from the results of the prior Survey and the changes those responses triggered. In other words, each Survey builds on the one before. 2004 marks the fifth iteration of the Survey.

***Q: How long will it take for me to complete the Survey?***

A: We understand that your time is valuable. Answering the Survey questions should take approximately 45 minutes of your time. Because the Survey is sent out only once every four years, it addresses an extensive array of issues in order to get as much feedback from you as possible that can start to be addressed in the years between Surveys. Also, be assured that all of your input will be kept completely confidential.

***Q: Will every Army family have an opportunity to complete the Survey?***

A: Families of active duty soldiers around the world are randomly selected to receive the Survey. This year, this random selection process will focus on families with a soldier currently deployed, families with a soldier who has been deployed during the past three years but has now returned to 'home base', and families with a soldier who has not deployed. About 60,000 families will be included in the sampling for the 2004 Survey. This makes it even more critical that every family that receives a Survey completes and returns it. The greater the response rate, the more helpful the information is in guiding the Army in fine-tuning the programs that serve you and your family.

***Q: If my family is chosen as part of the sampling process, when should I expect to receive the Survey in the mail?***

A: We anticipate that the Surveys will be mailed out in September. Look for a bright, neon-green 9-by-12 envelope marked with "2004 Survey of Army Families V" coming in September.